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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/017,524	02/03/1998	RALPH T. KUBO	018623-00509	8468
7590	12/03/2003		EXAMINER	
STERNE KESSLER GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE NW SUITE 600 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3934			VANDERVEGT, FRANCOIS P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/017,524	KUBO ET AL.	
	Examiner F. Pierre VanderVegt	Art Unit 1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 74,76,77,79-86,91,93 and 95-109 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 74,76,77,79-81,83-86,95-99,101,102,104,105,107 and 108 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 82 100 103 106 109 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . 6) Other:
 Filed 8/25/03 and 9/24/03

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DETAILED ACTION

The Examiner in charge of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D. in Art Unit 1644.

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial Number 09/153,586, which claims the benefit of the filing date of provisional applications 60/064,552 and 60/046,555.

Claims 1-73, 75, 78, 87-90, 92 and 94 have been canceled.

Claims 95-109 have been added.

Claims 74, 76, 77, 79-86, 91, 93 and 95-109 are currently pending and are the subject of examination in the present Office Action.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 22, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 74, 76-77, 79-81, 83-88, 91, 95, 96, 98, 99, 101, 102, 104, 105, 107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 74, 76-77 and 79-81 are most broadly drawn to a composition comprising a peptide epitope with a peptide motif of peptides that bind HLA-A3. Claim 76 is drawn to a subgenus thereto,

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adding the limitation that the epitope is an HIV-1 epitope. Claims 83-88 further recite that the composition is a diagnostic reagent. However, the instant specification discloses only a single species (SEQ ID NO: 32) and that the second amino acid residue is selected from the group consisting of L, M, V, S, A, T and F to support recitation of the species. The specification does not describe all possible epitopes that bind to HLA-A3, epitopes from viruses or organisms other than HIV-1, or all possible epitopes from HIV-1, nor does the specification describe a representative number of species that would support claims to the genus or subgenus. One of skill in the art would conclude that Applicant was not in possession of the claimed genus of HLA-A3-binding peptides or the subgenus of HIV-1-derived HLA-A3-binding peptides. Since Applicant does not appear to have been in possession of the genus of polypeptides to which the instantly recited antibody specifically binds; Applicant in turn does not appear to be in possession of the genus of antibodies specifically binding these polypeptides.

Therefore, only the HIV-1-derived HLA-A3-binding peptide of SEQ ID NO: 32 and the disclosed second amino acid residue derivatives thereof meet the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19 USPQ2d 1111, makes clear that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention. The invention is, for purposes of the written description inquiry, whatever is now claimed." (See page 1117.) The specification does not "clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed." (See Vas-Cath at page 1116.). Consequently, Applicant was not in possession of the instant claimed invention. See University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co. 43 USPQ2d 1398.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 93 and 95-97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 93 is indefinite in that it is dependent from a canceled claim. The claim has been examined as if it were dependent upon claim 91.

Claim 95 recites the limitation "diagnostic agent" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 82, from which 95 depends recites only a "composition."

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Conclusion

10. Claims 82, 100, 103, 106 and 109arc objccted to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Pierre VanderVegt whose telephone number is (703) 305-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30-4:00; Alternate Fridays 6:30-3:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on (703) 308-3973.

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center number is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose tclephone number is (703) 308-0196.

F. Pierre VanderVegt, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
December 1, 2003


PATRICK J. NOLAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER

12/1/03